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THE INSECT.

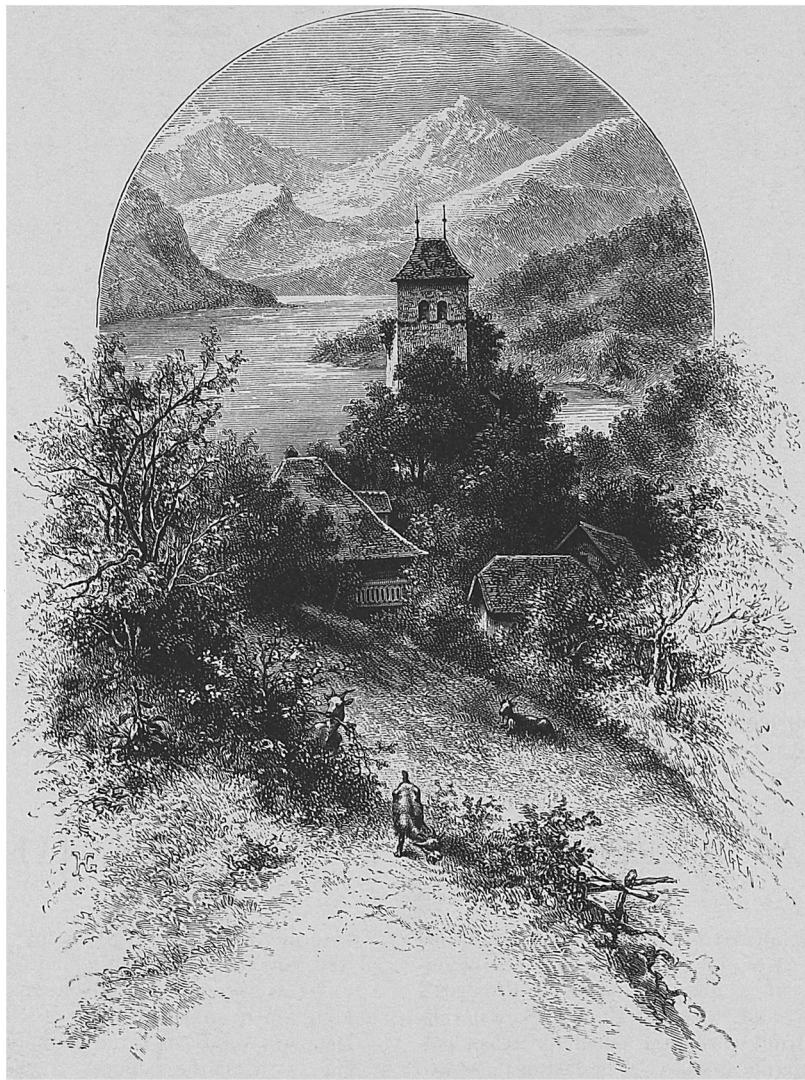
BY JULES MICHELET.

THE latest, but, we hope, not the last, of the very admirable and very valuable works of Jules Michelet which Messrs. Nelson and Sons have placed before the English public is certainly not the worst, if it be not the best, of the series. "The poetry of science" has never been so happily illustrated as it has been by the accomplished naturalist of France: his language is not only clear and comprehensive, it is graceful and often eloquent, and combines the charm of simplicity with the influence of strength. A brief, but well-written preface to this seductive book, thus characterises the author:—"His philosophy and poetry were both subordinate to his ardent sympathy with what

he conceived to be the soul, the personality of nature; and whether his attention was directed to the life of ocean, the bird, the insect, or the mountain plant, he still sought for some evidence of its special and distinct existence, with thoughts and emotions, as it were, and a character of its own."

The author's words are in harmony with his theme; he revels where nature luxuriates, and there is no object in creation too low or too mean to excite his sympathy—his lovingness, so to speak. His writings are positively *delicious*; that is the aptest word we can use.

In this beautiful book there are one hundred and forty wood



A Home among the Mountains.

engravings, all of great excellence, and no doubt perfectly reliable for their truth: the accomplished artist, Giacomelli, frequently combines fancy with fact, yet never so as to impair the accuracy of portraiture; sometimes flowers and leaves are made of more importance than the insects to whom they yield feasts; but the insects always stand out in due prominence, while the floral accessories give them effect, and illustrate their habits and ways. The volume is elegantly bound, and brought out with the desirable aids of fine paper and good printing. Few books more pleasant have been issued by the press, and we are much

indebted to Messrs. Nelson for the power to grace one of our pages with an example of their numerous engravings.

The graceful volume is not for a season merely, it will charm as long as nature attracts; and although probably science and search in all parts of the globe may, at no very distant period, supply pages of *errata*, no doubt the author will keep pace with advancing knowledge, and frequently alter and amend where circumstances render change necessary. But the engravings—the majority of them, at all events—will be perpetual in their interest and value, as they undoubtedly deserve to be.